

PAGE, PETER
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CONTEMPORARIES

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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

Peter Page

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

HUGH J. BAKER AND COMPANY
POST OFFICE BOX 892
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206

J. DAVID BAKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

May 16, 1978

The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library & Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Attention Mrs. Hubler

Dear Mrs. Hubler:

This confirms our telephone conversation of Monday, May 15th, in which I described a number of items referring to the appointment of Peter Page as the Collector of Internal Revenue, First District, Cook County, Illinois, in Chicago 1863.

Enclosed are a set of Xeroxes which the Museum may keep which include copies and some originals of correspondence in favor of Peter Page's appointment.

My question is whether the signature "Abraham Lincoln" on the appointment document is in reality his, or someone else's idea of his. Also included is a Xerox of the roll of the National Republican Convention, Chicago, May 16, 1860.

Originals of these documents can be furnished for examination if desired.

Sincerely yours,

J. David Baker
J. David Baker

JDB:da

Encls.

*Good
I can't find
whether he
signed Treasury
appointments or
not. I
doubt it.
file
m.*

May 23, 1978

Mr. J. David Baker
Hugh J. Baker and Company
P. O. Box 392
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Mr. Baker:

The signature on the document dated October 5, 1863 relating the appointment of Peter Page as Assessor of Taxes for the First Collection District of the State of Illinois is that of Abraham Lincoln.

To tell whether Lincoln's signature is a printed or an autographed signature on this document, you can do doubt tell better than anyone else by examining the original document. Xerox copies are not used to authenticate signatures or writings as it is impossible to tell whether the signature or writing is printed or handwritten because on a Xerox copy all writings appear as printed regardless of whether the writing on the original document is printed or signed.

I did notice that there does appear to be quite a variation in the depth of print on the signature of Abraham Lincoln on the Xerox in comparison to the other writings on the document. Here again, the original document can confirm whether this is true on just a poor Xerox copy.

From all the other copies of correspondence you sent in written to Mr. Arnold pertaining to the recommendation of Peter Page for the job, the appointment of Peter Page to this job and the certification of Page's oath to the office, doubtlessly authenticates the document itself.

For your own personal comparison, I am enclosing two prints of appointments, each of which carry the autographed signature of Abraham Lincoln.

Enclosed also are two Xerox copies of references made to Peter Page in The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln: The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois IV (Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1953, p. 177) by Roy P. Basler, Editor and The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln: Supplement 1832-1865 (Greenwood Press: Westport, Connecticut, 1974, p. 190) by Roy P. Basler, Editor. I thought you might find these of particular interest. Please note our stamping on the Xerox copies as these references are restricted and not in public domain. They are useable only for private study, scholarship and research.

Mr. J. David Baker
May 23, 1978
Page 2

Our special thanks to you for all the Xerox copies you sent us on the correspondence pertaining to the recommendations submitted to Mr. Arnold in Peter Page's behalf relating to the appointment, the actual appointment, the filing of the appointment and the Roll of the National Republican Convention on May 16, 1860, in Chicago. We can use this data to update our Lincolniana files on Lincoln documents, Peter Page and the 1860 National Republican Convention.

If we can be of any further service to you, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Mary Jane Hubler
Assistant to Dr. Neely, Jr.

MJH/slm

Enc.

print enclosed #3154, #
two copies of "The Collected Works of
Abraham Lincoln"

Abraham

President of the Uni

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRE

Know ye, That, reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity
I DO APPOINT HIM an Assessor of Taxes *for the*
State of Illinois.

and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the duties of
with all the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, unto him
during the pleasure of the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES for
of the United States, and no longer.

In testimony whereof, I have

Department of the U

Given under my

in the year

the INDEPEND

BY THE

Lincoln

States of America,

ITS SHALL COME, GREETING:

diligence, and discretion of *Peter Page*
5th Collection District of the

at office according to law, and to have and to hold the said office,
he said *Peter Page*

to time being, and until the end of the next session of the Senate

used these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the Treasury
States to be hereunto affixed.

at, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, this *fifth* day of *October*

Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *Sixty Three* and of
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA the *Eighteenth*

PRESIDENT:

Abraham Lincoln

SPENCER

Secretary of the Treasury.

Chicago March 24th 1863
Hon J C Arnold,
Dear Sir,

I have learned
within a day or two that Philip Wadsworth
is about to resign his office of Assessor for
this district. I wish to urge upon you the
appointment of Peter Page to fill his place.
Mr Page has claims upon this community
that ought not to be overlooked. No man
is better qualified, or has devoted more time
gratuitously to serve the best interests
of his country than Mr Page & his
appointment would give general
satisfaction.

Copy

Chicago March 25th 1863

How I. A. Arnold,

My dear Sir, I think it is high time that our friend Peter Page should be remembered. There has been no more faithful & hard working man in the party than he, & there is no more trustworthy man. I beg of you not to forget him. I understand Mr. Adair is going to resign the Apperiship. If so, I think you can't do better than to appoint Mr. Page. We need not only a friend, but an honest & conscientious man in that office. Mr. Page fills all these conditions, & is entitled to the place. Men have got places who did not deserve them. This cannot be helped sometimes. Now in your place, I should not hesitate to recommend Mr. Page. He is one of the men always to be relied upon. I do not intend this as a mere formal recommendation. I want him to have the appointment.

It is his due. If my opinion is worth anything I wish it placed to the credit of Mr. Page. It will not do to have an Apperiship who is not honest & reliable. Truly your friend, J. Young Scammon

Copy

Summit House

Chicago March 26th 1878

Friend Arnold,

I am informed
that Asa B. Madworth proposes
to resign the office he now holds
& that he has recommended Mr.
Peter Page for the position. I am sure
that Mr. Page ought to have the place.
He has labored constantly, and is
for the success of the Government, but besides
his appointment would meet the
approval of the business community.
I hope most sincerely, that Mr. Page
will receive the appointment.

Yours truly,
A. M. Gage

copy

Chicago March 30th 1863

Hon J. C. Arnold
Washington D C
Sir,

Should the
office of Agent for this
District become vacant by
the resignation of Mr. Madeworth
which I am informed is
likely to occur I know
of no one better fitted
for the place than Peter
Page Esq, and moreover
he is an ardent
worker in the cause
of Freedom.

Yours truly

E. W. Millard

Names of Parties who have
written private letters on this subject
Jos Medill. Editor Tribune
J H Kay " "
J L Scripps Post-Office
Wm V. Church
C. K. Wickes
R M Hays
H J Young Scamman
Philip Wadsworth
E. L. Wadsworth
Geo. Ad. Sage

Chicago March 26th 1863

Hon. J. N. Arnold)
Washington, D.C.)

Understanding that Mr. McDermott the present U. S. A. for this district is about to resign that office, the undersigned respectfully nominate for your support Peter Page esq. of this City to fill the vacancy which will be thus occasioned.

Intimately known to both yourself and the President, as Mr. Page is, it were unnecessary to speak of his qualifications or character. The undersigned however avail themselves of this occasion to say, that he is not only eminently qualified to discharge the duties of that office, but that his unselfish, and successful labors in support of the Government entitle him, in our opinion to its favor, and give him strong claims upon its patronage. We therefore most respectfully request that you will endeavor to procure the appointment of Mr. Page to that office, believing that it will not only be thus most worthily bestowed and creditable to the Government, but that it will be received by our Community with demonstrations of the highest satisfaction.

Thos. Cunningham
George Manierre
John M. Wilson
Sam H. Higgins
Casper Butts

Verey Brewster
A. C. Hopkins
E. B. McCagg
A. C. Coventry

Wm. B. B.
S. P. Hilliard
Wm. H. Bradley
J. R. Jones

Chicago March 27th 1863

Hon J E Arnold,

Dear Sir,

I am informed that Mr Wadsworth has resigned or is about to resign the Aseporship of this District, & that Peter Page is an Applicant for the position. It would seem to me that letters from no one were required insure his appointment, where his position and services are known.

There is no qualification for the Office he does not posep, & none can give greater satisfaction to the public. If party and public services are to be considered no one has higher claim. I let me say in all frankness that if he is put aside for any one else that I can now think of, it will be deemed offensive to the most influential members of the party. I speak strongly because I know the feeling is strong. He has always been ready to devote his best energies to the public good, & within the last two years has devoted more than one third of his time to the country. To set such a man aside for anything short of important reasons is bad policy, and

great injustice. I am sure nothing
I can say can be necessary to satisfy
you of the propriety, and justice of his appointment.

Yours truly,

P.S. If you think any personal favor is
due me his appointment will be
considered as such.

H. H.

Chicago March 26th 1863
Dear Sir,

I learn that Mr Macdonald
the present Assessor for this District proposes
to resign.

Peter Page Esq is an applicant
for the appointment thus to be made
vacant. You know Mr Page personally
and I need scarcely say any thing of
his qualifications for the office.
I do not believe that a better
appointment could be made
nor do I know of anyone who has
stronger claims for it than Mr Page.
Few if any of our citizens have
devoted more time, and labor
to the cause of the Country for
the last two years than Mr Page.
I am confident his appointment would
give universal satisfaction to all loyal
men. It is our duty if it to be made
I trust you may find it
consistent with your views of public duty
to confer on him the appointment.

Yours
H. A. Lincoln
President &c.

Very respectfully

Thomas Drimmer

Office of Collector of Internal Revenue,
First District, (Cook County,) Illinois.

Chicago, Dec. 10 1863

This is to certify that Peter Page Esq.
Assessor for the 1st District of
Illinois, has this day deposited
with me a duplicate of his oath
of office.

J. S. Howard
Collector of I. R. for
1st District Ill.



ACID FREE
J. H. HALL, JR. CORPORATION
WASHINGTON, VIRGINIA

